



**MONTANA**  
**ARTS COUNCIL**  
**Arts Education**

**Issues to Discuss with Sponsors for Successful Residencies**

- Communication between the sponsor and the artist, folklorist, or arts organization is extremely important and cannot be stressed enough. The Arts Council strongly recommends that you be prepared to talk about the following areas with potential sponsors. This list is not exhaustive, but should provide a good starting point. It will also be provided to all potential sponsors. Don't expect every sponsor to talk about every area listed here, but experience has shown this range of information is pertinent to sponsors' needs and concerns.
- Remember that you act as role models when you visit another community. You may trigger lifelong learning in both children and adults through interaction over a period of time, in addition to the actual formal teaching.
- The Arts Council believes there are differences between working as an arts teacher and working as a resident artist through the Arts Education program. Keep in mind that you are there to supplement, not take the place of, the arts teacher. Together, you can make a significant impact on the lives of your students.
- Try to get the sponsor to tell you what they want their community or students to receive from this experience. Address the sponsor's concerns, some of which may be related to past experiences.
- Ask how many students or participants are in the particular community. In smaller communities, you may be expected to work with a wide range of age groups, so talk with the sponsor about this, and explore how you can accommodate their needs.
- It is reasonable, and often necessary, to establish an appropriate maximum number of students per session, taking into account the particular discipline, activity, and ages of the participants or students. The standard state maximum is 30 students per class.

- Be prepared to talk about the learning objectives for each activity you plan, and how you could connect your work to the community. How will you assess how well students learned those objectives?
- For residencies and special projects that take place in the schools, how would you work with the teachers in advance to link the residency to their curriculum, or the Montana Standards for Arts?
- For your teaching time, what are your needs in terms of physical space, time allotted, and equipment required? Ordinarily, the sponsor will be responsible for making copies of your materials. As your visit approaches they will need to know how many copies you'll use, so anticipate this question.
- What materials do you need the sponsor to provide? Are these materials that may require someone else's approval? Will the sponsor have to request money for the materials in advance of your visit? How much advance time will they need? Be sensitive to the sponsor's administrative constraints. Help them budget for needed supplies.
- Sponsors should seek the advance permission of the artist or organization if they wish to take photographs or video your visit. Please submit photos of your residency to the Arts Council with your Artist evaluation.
- If the sponsor raises the issue, are you willing to negotiate the travel, food, and lodging dollar amounts? Would you consider staying at someone's home instead of in a motel, if the sponsor could arrange it? Don't feel obligated to agree to this, but it's a very good idea to think it through in advance.
- Artists must be paid by the last day of the residency. Make sure the sponsor understands they are to pay you in full. The Arts Council reimburses the sponsor only after all evaluations and a copy of your check are received.

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